Life’s Transitions

It’s December 2012 and a time for reflection. I am especially reflective this year as I look at the transitions that have occurred in my life and the ones that are due to happen soon.

I look at transitions like a door and behind each door a transition. The doorways take us to new adventures and experiences. Some doorways appear to hold us back but when we later remember them, we find that they actually moved us forward, we just weren't aware of it at the time.

I am drawn to a very special doorway as I greet the New Year. As I open the door in early December, I will meet my third grandchild in 5 years. The birth of your child’s child is a transition of immense proportions. You are whisked back to when they were born and relive all the dreams and hopes you had the moment you first met them. I don’t even know this child yet but I know I will love it with all that I have in me. This child will join a brother and sister that make my life full and blessed. Their father, my first born, has surpassed every dream and hope I had for him so the transition of welcoming this new life will be exciting.

I am also facing a door that has my parents in the middle of their own life transitions and I wonder and anticipate what this will mean to me. They have cared for me for 56 years and now as they move into a new phase of their life it is my deepest hope and prayer that I can provide them with the love and care they have always given me and support to my siblings that are the ones close by to provide immediate care.

The coming year also has a doorway of great challenge. I am in the final stages of completing a lifelong goal to graduate with an advanced degree. After waiting to pursue any degree until later in my life, I have met some opposition to this goal especially since I’m 56. I have also been supported and held up by my family who have encouraged and assisted me with my goals and ambitions. Opening this door will provide with me with new challenges and reinforce my ambitions to be an educational leader.

I am also facing a door that has a great unknown behind it. It is also one that could hold great changes for my family. I will, of course, have to open and cross the threshold of this door and hope that I will embrace the challenges that come with entering.

Alexander Graham Bell says this about opening doors, " "When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us."

I hope that as the New Year unfolds before me that I am able to close and open the doors to life's transitions, and that I will embrace the opportunities that are opened to me and pray that they will continue to provide enriching experiences for my family and my career.